

# READING

**YEAR**

**7**

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

These sample questions illustrate some of the question types and formats which will appear in the 2008 NAPLAN.

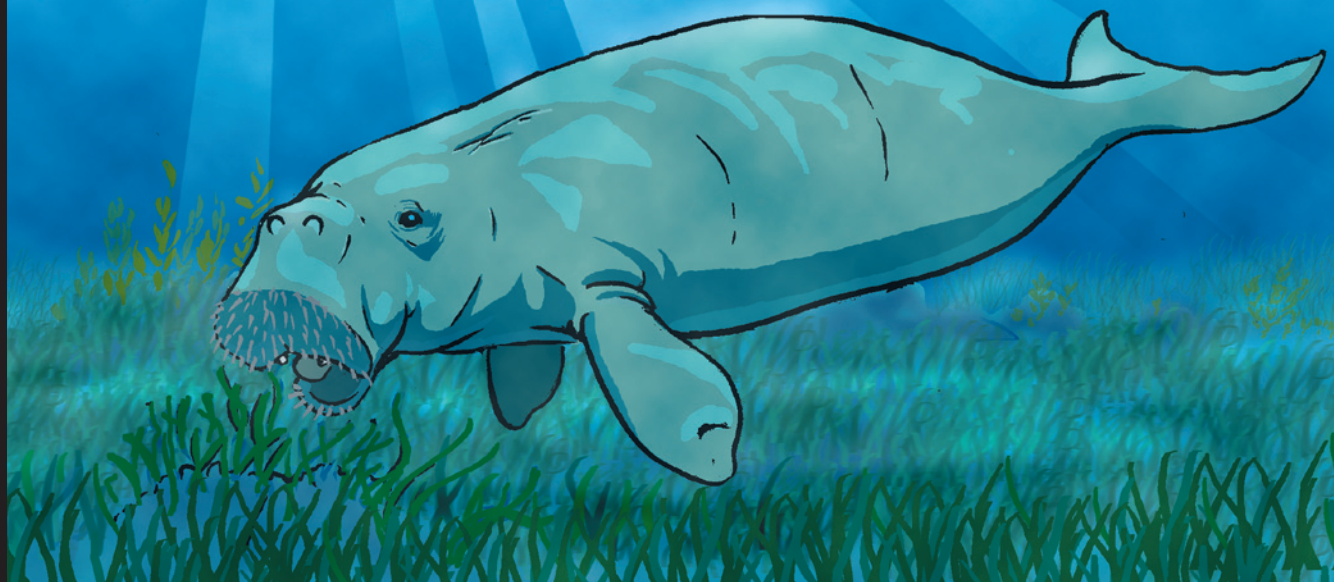
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# Dugongs



Dugongs, or sea cows as they are sometimes called, are marine mammals. They can grow to about three metres in length and weigh as much as 400 kilograms. They are the only marine mammals in Australia that live mainly on plants. The name 'sea cow' refers to the fact that they graze on the seagrasses, which form meadows in sheltered coastal waters.

## LIFE IN THE SEA

Dugongs swim using their whale-like fluked tail and they use their front flippers for balance and turning. Their movements are often slow and graceful. They have a rounded head with small eyes and a large snout. The nostrils are at the top of the snout and, being mammals, dugongs must surface to breathe.

However, unlike other mammals such as dolphins, porpoises and some whales, dugongs cannot hold their breath for very long. They can only stay under water for a few minutes.

Dugongs have poor eyesight but acute hearing. They find and grasp seagrass with the aid of coarse, sensitive bristles, which cover the upper lip of their large and fleshy snout. During the mating season, male dugongs use their tusks to fight each other.

## DISTRIBUTION

Dugongs inhabit the shallow, tropical waters throughout the Indo-Pacific region. Most of the world's population of dugongs is now found in northern Australian waters between Shark Bay in Western Australia and Moreton Bay in Queensland.

## THREATS TO SURVIVAL

Their slow breeding rate means that dugongs are particularly susceptible to factors that threaten their survival. These include:

- illegal hunting
- death or injury from passing boats
- drowning from entanglement in fishing nets
- habitat loss due to the destruction of seagrass meadows through dredging and pollution.

## Read *Dugongs* and answer questions 1 to 5.

**1** To locate their food, dugongs mainly use their sense of

- ☐ sight.
- ☐ smell.
- ☐ touch.
- ☐ hearing.

Shade one bubble.



**2** The section on **DISTRIBUTION** describes

- ☐ sight.
- ☐ where dugongs can be found.
- ☐ how dugongs swim and feed.
- ☐ why dugongs are endangered.

**3** What part of the dugong is described as coarse and sensitive?

- ☐ tusks
- ☐ snout
- ☐ bristles
- ☐ flippers

**4** Dugongs are especially at risk because

- ☐ they breed slowly.
- ☐ they have poor vision.
- ☐ they must surface to breathe.
- ☐ they fight during the breeding season.

**5** The biggest threat to dugong survival comes from

- ☐ humans.
- ☐ other animals.
- ☐ loss of habitat.
- ☐ climate change.

# ROBBERY ON THE HIGH SEAS

From the earliest times, cargo-carrying ships have been under threat of attack from sea-roving armed robbers known as pirates. All seafaring nations have had their share of pirates. The pirate flag came to be known as the 'Jolly Roger' and easily identified a pirate ship to its terrified victims.



*Above: A red flag meant that no mercy would be given in battle. The name 'Jolly Roger' may have come from the French for 'red flag' – joli rouge.*



*Above: The pirate Thomas Tew flew a menacing flag showing an arm wielding a scimitar, a kind of curved sword.*



*Above: Blackbeard's gruesome flag showed a skeleton piercing a bleeding heart with a spear.*

## PIRATE NAMES

In different parts of the world, pirates have been known by special names. Those called 'buccaneers' originally were famous as hunters of wild animals. In the 17th century, they turned to piracy and plundered ships in the Caribbean Sea. 'Corsairs' attacked ships in the Mediterranean Sea from the 1500s to the 1800s. The most famous were the Barbary corsairs from the ports of northern Africa.

## PIRATE ATTACKS

A pirate attack typically was fast and ferocious. Catching sight of a pirate flag – the 'Jolly Roger' – caused terror among regular seamen. Sometimes pirates would fly 'false colours', a friendly flag, to trick their victims. Then, when the pirates were close enough, they would raise their 'true colours' and attack. In some cases the victim would 'strike his colours', or take down their own flag and submit to the bandits. In the event that a victim was particularly evasive, or the pirate was particularly brutal, the pirates raised a red flag to indicate that no mercy would be given once the ship was captured.

## FLAGS OF DEATH

Pirate flags date from the 1600s. Pirates created their own designs using various symbols of death. There were several popular symbols. The infamous skull and crossbones was just one of many.



*Above: Christopher Moody's flag included an hourglass with wings to warn how quickly time would run out for his victims.*



*Above: 'Calico' Jack Rackham's flag was a skull with crossed swords.*

Read *Robbery on the High Seas* and answer questions 1 to 4.

**1** 'Buccaneers' was the name given to the pirates who attacked ships in the

- ☐ Indian Ocean.
- ☐ Pacific Ocean.
- ☐ Caribbean Sea.
- ☐ Mediterranean Sea.

Shade one bubble.



**2** 'Colours' in this text refers to

- ☐ flags.
- ☐ nations.
- ☐ pirate ships.
- ☐ pirate gangs.

**3** The name 'Jolly Roger' is thought to have come from

- ☐ the Caribbean.
- ☐ the Barbary corsairs.
- ☐ the French words for 'red flag'.
- ☐ the pirate captain who first used the flag.

**4** What is the reason the writer gives for pirates using different flags?

Write the answer on the lines.




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